

Dear Superintendents, Administrators, and Educators,

This informational email is being sent out to provide a reminder regarding the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) course and the completion requirement for a select group of educators and administrators by 2014 for recertification.

In 2007, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna created the Idaho Math Initiative Task Force, with members made up of teachers, principals, superintendents, school board trustees, legislators, professors of higher education and the business community. The Task Force met monthly throughout 2007 to develop a comprehensive plan for improving math education across K-12 grades and presented its final recommendations for the Idaho Math Initiative to the 2008 legislature. The MTI course, one aspect of the Idaho Math Initiative, focuses on how to teach mathematics to improve student achievement through professional development.

All Idaho certified teachers and administrators can take the MTI course; however, the following list is a description of who are mandated to take the course for recertification by 2014.

- ❖ Teachers holding an Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education Blended Certificate (Birth- Grade 3) who is employed in an elementary classroom (multi-subject classroom, K-8)
- ❖ Teachers holding a Standard Elementary Certificate (K-8)
- ❖ Teachers holding a Standard Secondary Certificate (6-12) teaching in a math content classroom (grade six through grade twelve) including Title I classrooms
- ❖ Teachers holding a Standard Exceptional Child Certificate (K-12)
- ❖ School administrators holding an Administrator Certificate (PreK-12)

With the deadline for completion drawing near, it is imperative that the courses being offered have a minimum number of twenty participants; otherwise, a course may be canceled and held at a location where the need is greater. If you are currently signed up for a course that has low registration numbers, please encourage colleagues, who are still in need of the course for recertification, to register and fill the available seats. Also, as time goes on and the number of educators/administrators who are in need of the course decreases, location options and flexibility will decrease, requiring participants to travel to a location where the course is being offered. Therefore, it would be beneficial to register and complete the course, as soon as possible.

Currently, the Idaho State Department of Education pays for the delivery of the MTI course out of the Math Initiative Budget. Credits for completing the MTI course are not paid for by the state; however, Idaho Code 33-1004A allows completion of the course to carry the same weight as three transcript graduate credits for the purposes of recertification and movement across the state salary schedule.

Please forward to staff in your building, or if you are one of the mandated participants of the MTI course and have yet to take it, please view course schedules by visiting the MTI webpage on the Idaho State Department of Education's website at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>

If further information or help is needed, please contact me through phone, (208) 332-6933 or email, nhall@sde.idaho.gov.

Thank you,

Nichole K. Hall
Coordinator – Math Initiative
Idaho State Department of Education
(208) 332-6933
nhall@sde.idaho.gov

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